

pressure reduction means for reducing the pressure within the evaporative fuel processing system until the detected pressure becomes equal to a predetermined negative pressure, by introducing negative pressure from the intake system;

negative pressure introduction means for introducing the negative pressure from the intake system into the evaporative fuel processing system under predetermined conditions after the pressure reduction by said pressure reduction means in order to further reduce the pressure within the evaporative fuel processing system; and

leakage determination means for determining that there is a leak in the evaporative fuel processing system when the detected pressure detected during the introduction of the negative pressure from the intake system by said negative pressure introduction means is higher than a predetermined leakage reference value.

4. (Twice Amended) A leakage determination method for an evaporative fuel processing system that causes a canister to absorb evaporative fuel generated from a fuel tank and supplies the evaporative fuel absorbed in the canister to an intake system of an internal combustion engine,

the leakage determination method comprising:

a pressure detection step of detecting pressure within the evaporative fuel processing system;

a pressure reduction step of reducing the pressure within the evaporative fuel processing system until the detected pressure becomes equal to a predetermined negative pressure, by introducing negative pressure from the intake system;

a negative pressure introduction step of introducing the negative pressure from the